

THE 2012 HARRY L. DECKER HISTORICAL ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES

The Harry L. Decker Historical Essay Contest seeks to inspire fourth grade students living or attending school in Frederick County to learn more about local history through original research and writing. The contest's theme changes from year to year. The contest is named in honor of local historian Harry L. Decker.

HARRY L. DECKER

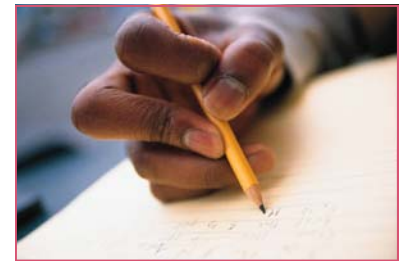
In addition to the historical research and writing he did for Potomac Edison during his 45 year career with the company, Harry Decker wrote numerous articles that appeared in area newspapers and magazines. He also taught a course in local history at Frederick Community College, presented lectures to locally, promoted historical events, and served as a president of the Historical Society. Mr. Decker passed away in 2000. The contest was established to honor his many contributions to our local heritage.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Contest entries must be received by **March 30, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.** at the Frederick County Archives and Research Center. (The Research Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) Entries also may mailed to Duane Doxzen, HSFC, 24 East Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701, or e-mailed to ddoxzen@hsfcinfo.org (pre-formatted) **but must be received by the deadline.**
- Winners will be notified by April 27, 2012. All other students will be notified by mail after that date.
- Awards will be presented on May 17, 2012 at a combined Student Contest Awards Presentation.

CONTEST RULES

- The contest is open to all fourth grade students residing in or attending school in Frederick County, Maryland.
- Students should conduct original research and write an essay about one of the subjects from the approved subject list provided by these guidelines (see reverse side).
- **The essay should provide historical background information while also explaining the subject's significance to Frederick County's heritage.**
- The essay must be no less than 250 words and no more than 500 words.
- The essay must be accompanied by a title page. It must include the following information: student's name, teacher, school, complete home mailing address, and telephone number and/or e-mail.
- The essay must be accompanied by a list of sources used. Preference in judging will be given to those essays that utilize a variety of information resources (for example books, websites, newspapers, interviews, etc.), specifically primary sources.
- All entries must be received by the deadline. Late or incomplete entries will not be considered for awards.



RESEARCHING YOUR TOPIC

Students are strongly encouraged to visit the Historical Society's Frederick County Archives and Research Center located at 24 East Church Street in Frederick to conduct their research. The Research Center has information about each of the subjects listed below. While students may utilize any appropriate resources and research facilities (such as the Frederick County Public Library), **only the Research Center is prepared to assist with research on all topics.** Admission is free to students (and those assisting them) and volunteers and staff are on-hand to assist researchers. The Research Center is a non-circulating facility.

THEME & APPROVED SUBJECT LIST

Students are asked to write an essay that describes the formation, early development, or another important aspect of the history of one of the Frederick County communities listed below. Information about the following subjects is available at the Frederick County Archives and Research Center, 24 East Church Street in Frederick. For research questions, contact the Research Center at 301-663-1188 x102 or library@hsfcinfo.org.

Adamstown	Araby	Bartonsville	Beallsville	Bethel
Braddock Heights	Broad Run	Brunswick	Buckeystown	Burkittsville
Catoctin Furnace	Ceresville	Creagerstown	Doubs	Emmitsburg
Feagaville	Graceham	Greenfield	Hansonville	Harmony
Harmony Grove	Ijamsville	Jefferson	Jimtown	Johnsville
Kempton	Knoxville	Ladiesburg	Lander	Lewistown
Libertytown	Lime Kiln	Middletown	Monrovia	Mount Airy
Myersville	New London	New Midway	Petersville	Pleasant View
Pleasant Walk	Point of Rocks	Rosemont	Sabillasville	Thurmont
Tuscarora	Unionville	Urbana	Walkersville	Woodsboro
Yellow Springs	Zora			

JUDGING CRITERIA

Essay contest entries will be judged upon the following criteria: 1. Originality of the essay; 2. Use of genuine student language; 3. Diversity of sources; 4. Grammar; and 5. Neatness.

AWARDS

The writers of the top six essays will be awarded \$100 each.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contest Coordinator: Duane Doxzen, HSFC Assistant Director

ddoxzen@hsfcinfo.org

301-663-1188 ext. 108



THE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF
FREDERICK
COUNTY

24 East Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701

www.hsfcinfo.org

The HSFC is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational organization dedicated to preserving and sharing Frederick County's important heritage.